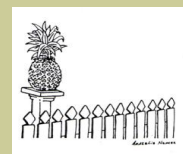


Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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Museum's Family Day a Great Success

The Lexington County Museum held its first ever free Family Day on Saturday June 21 from 10 am to 2 pm. Although it was a little hot and steamy (temperatures were in the mid 90s), the event was a huge success! Over one hundred adults and children came out to the museum complex to learn more about life in the nineteenth century and enjoy fun activities. Visitors participated in a scavenger hunt, watched a smith practicing historic blacksmithing techniques and learned about the daily camp life of Civil War soldiers. Children and adults participated in the museum's hands-on kitchen and games and toys programs featuring items from the 19th century as well. In these



Learning How to Wash Clothes at Family Day

programs, visitors made butter, washed clothes, ground coffee, and played with games and toys that Lexington residents in the 1800s would have used. Free hot dogs and chips were served as well. Visitors told us they had a great time at the event – one young guest even spent her birthday with us! The museum would like to

send a special thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the Family Day a success!

We hope to make this an annual event, so be on the lookout next year. Check out page three of this newsletter for more photos of Family Day or visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lexingtoncountymuseum).

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members are staying busy through the summer and continue to try to publicize the museum. The director spoke to around 30 students at the Carolina Springs Middle iCivics

class.

The museum has also given tours to a group of interpreters from various SC State Parks, employees of the River Alliance and this year's

Youth Leadership Lexington class.

Furthermore, the director gave an interview on 107.9 FM about the museum's family day as well as the museum itself.

Meet Volunteer P.J. Fox



"He has been a tremendous help for us through all of his duties. His favorite volunteer task so far has been cataloging and conserving artifacts discovered in the Lorick Cabin that had been stored in boxes for over twenty years."

At a small-staffed, large-sized museum like ours volunteers are an absolute necessity. Over the years volunteers have helped make the museum the great place it is today. Working at a museum is often exciting but it also involves some hard work. Often, the work required to be done is not glamorous. The buildings need to be dusted and swept, gardens need maintenance, papers need filing, mundane objects need to be cataloged, repairs need to be made, etc. For that reason, we have had many volunteers show up to help for a couple of hours and never return. P.J. is one of the few volunteers we've had that has been the exception.

P.J. started volunteering with us over a year ago and has committed a few hours of his time nearly every week to help do whatever needs to be done at the museum. Throughout the seasons he has been dependable and steadfast in his commitment to his volunteering. Sweep out

musty cabins in 95 degree heat? No problem. Wipe live spiders and dirt from mysterious 19th century artifacts? Gladly. Of course, these kinds of tasks are a little easier if you're the kind of person who loves history and being around old stuff.

P.J. has had an interesting life compared to other young people his age. He grew up traveling state to state with his family music ministry. Through their travelling he got to see most of the Country and developed an appreciation for its history and heritage. He enjoys the Civil War Era the most, but also enjoys learning about the World Wars and the Revolutionary War. P.J. says that he became interested in museums through attending the Homeschool Friday programs with Joe Long at the Confederate Relic Room. He wanted to volunteer at our museum to see if he could like working at one as a career.

He has been a tremendous help for us through all of his duties. His favorite

volunteer task so far has been cataloging and conserving artifacts discovered in the Lorick Cabin that had been stored in boxes for over twenty years. It was exciting to be the first person to see objects that had been hidden away for decades.

P.J. will attend Bob Jones University this Fall and wants to pursue a degree in History. He says that he may wish to continue his museum studies at the graduate level and so that he can work in a museum himself one day. Before August you can find P.J. at his part-time job at Chicken Salad Chick in the Target shopping center in Lexington. He is also a member of Covenant Baptist Church in West Columbia.



Interested in Volunteering at the Lexington County Museum?

There is always work that needs to be done at the museum. Currently we need help with routine cleaning of the interiors of the historic homes and gardening (watering, weeding, etc), though our needs can change at any moment. Past projects

have included sewing costumes, painting, object inventories, and assisting with children's programs and events. A time commitment of four hours minimum a month is encouraged. Ideas for projects are also welcome. Let us know

how you can contribute! Anyone interested should contact Patricia Shandor at 803-359-8369. All volunteers for the County of Lexington will need to undergo a background check. Come be part of our team!

Museum Family Day Photos

The Museum's first Family Day was a great success! Here are a few photos from it:



Museum Visitation in May and June 2014

Although school groups don't visit as often during the summer months as in the fall or spring, the museum continues to see plenty of tourists.

In May, the museum saw 1,117 total visitors

including visitors from fifteen states other than SC as well as Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

694 total visitors came to the museum in June. This included visitors from

thirteen states other than SC and two foreign countries.

School groups from districts in Lexington, Richland, and Sumter Counties took part in our free programs for children during the last two months.



Museum Calendar of Events

October 16 and 17 –Haunted History Halloween Program
Free for Members of the Friends
Times TBD
Lexington County Museum Complex

December 14 – Annual Christmas Open House
1 pm to 4 pm
Free to the Public
Refreshments will be served
Lexington County Museum Complex

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lex-co.com to find out more about these events.

Education Programs Spaces Filling Up Quickly

Spaces in the fall for the museum's educational programs are filling up quickly as we get closer to the new school year. The museum offers thirteen hands on programs for school groups, homeschool groups, and day cares. These programs are educational as well as fun. Reservations can be made by calling Patricia Shandor, our visitor services coordinator, at 803-359-8369. Reservations are available Tuesday through Friday mornings and afternoons. The programs are best suited for students in K4 through fifth grade. To learn more about the different programs and what they offer, please call Patricia or visit our website.



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*Gateway to
Yesterday*



We're on the Web!
www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum

The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county, including the project described below. The Friends group has raised over \$270,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

The highlighted artifact for this issue is a quilt which belonged to Francis Asbury Lever (1840-1926). It is a 3 x 3 square pieced quilt in the "Rose of Sharon" or "Wreath of Roses" pattern. It probably dates from the second half of the nineteenth century and features a nice scalloped edge. Frank Lever was a representative of the U.S. House of Representatives from Lexington County. He is famous for his agricultural bills including the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 which established the Cooperative Extension Service.

